

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution No. 1391

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BURLISON (Sponsor), RIDDLE, CAUTHORN, MOLENDORP, JONES (117), HOUGHTON, FALLERT, CASEY, KRATKY, HODGES, CONWAY (27), SCHIEFFER, McGEORGHEGAN, WALTON GRAY, MORGAN AND McDONALD (Co-sponsors).

6204L.011

WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to describe airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis; and

WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 24 million people and kills more than 120,000 Americans every year. On average, one person dies from COPD every four minutes, an alarming statistic for a disease many have not learned about; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the National Center for Health Statistics released a report stating that in 2008 COPD became the third leading cause of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, pulmonary experts predict that, by the year 2020, COPD will become the third leading cause of death worldwide; and

WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency room visits, 726,000 hospitalizations, and 8 million physician office and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are a detriment to the United States economy; and

WHEREAS, COPD costs the nation an estimated \$42.6 billion in direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

WHEREAS, research has identified a hereditary protein deficiency called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin. People with this deficiency tend to develop COPD, even without exposure to smoking or environmental trigger; and

WHEREAS, recently, the death rate for women with COPD has surpassed the death rate of men with COPD. Women over the age of 40 are the fastest growing segment of the population developing this irreversible disease, due in large part to the equalization of opportunities for men and women to smoke over the past several generations; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no cure for COPD. Spirometry testing and medical treatments exist to address symptom relief and possibly slow the progression of the disease; and

32 **WHEREAS**, until there is a cure, the best approaches to preventing COPD and its
33 considerable health, societal, and morality impacts lie with education, awareness, and expanded
34 delivery of detection and management protocols:
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36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri
37 House of Representatives, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, hereby recognize the month of
38 November as "COPD Awareness Month" in the State of Missouri and the effects this deadly
39 disease has on the citizens of the State of Missouri; and
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41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
42 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
43 American Lung Association.

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